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Department of Agriculture

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service

Office of Exhibits.

A Summary of the Exhibit

FEDERAL AID ROAD BUILDING

This is a pictorial booth exhibit illustrating how, in the designation of the Federal-aid highway system, disconnected sections of local roads have been joined to form through routes.

Specifications.

Floor space required -----width, - 10 ft.
depth, - 5 ft.
Wall space required ----- None.
Shipping weight -----294 lbs.
Electrical requirements -----None.

FEDERAL AID ROAD BUILDING

How It Looks.

The subject matter of the booth is illustrated with attractively colored oil paintings. In the center is shown a relief map of the United States in green with the red routes of the Federal-aid highway system crossing it from east to west and from north to south. In the left background is a farm scene and in the right a factory city, indicating that these interstate roads connect agriculture and industry - the foundation of our national prosperity.

On the left panel is an automobile wheel with the various activities of the State highway departments shown in the pictures on the tire. These include views of snow removal, policing of highways, maintenance of existing roads, erection of highway signs, the building and maintaining of rest stations, the study and removal of accident causes, the distribution of tourist road maps, the issuance of road condition bulletins, the regulation of motor transport, and the construction of new roads.

On the right panel is a picture of the circular track built at the Arlington Experiment Station of the Bureau of Public Roads for making tests of various types of pavement. The picture suggests the research activity of the bureau.

What It Tells.

The Federal Government is cooperating with the several States in the building of a Federal-aid system to take the place of the disconnected stretches of road which formerly existed. These interstate roads make it

possible to travel over long distances without the interruption by unimproved sections. When completed the country will be gridironed with a system of trunk roads which will extend from the Atlantic Coast on the East to the Pacific Coast on the West and will provide rapid transportation from the Canadian Border on the North to Old Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico on the South. Every city of 5,000 population or larger will be reached directly by one of these roads.

The left panel shows the various services now considered essential in a well developed State highway department. Formerly the work of the State highway departments was restricted, largely, to road construction and maintenance work. The public demand has made it necessary to provide a more complete highway service which now includes, among other things, snow removal, information on road conditions, safety provisions, and police regulations. The State highway departments are now service organizations in the largest sense. They make every effort to give the traveling public the maximum of comfort and safety at the minimum of cost.

On the right panel is shown the importance of research for providing solutions to the new highway problems which have resulted from the change in the character of traffic and the increase in its volume and weight. The Bureau of Public Roads considers research of fundamental importance in the development of an interstate highway system. What might prove to be costly mistakes in construction, maintenance, or operation, may be avoided by devoting a reasonable expenditure of time and money in determining the solution of each new highway problem in a scientific manner.

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION

Information may be obtained free of charge upon request from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.